

BONNIE NEWSOM, PH.D.
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LEGACIES, LANGUAGE, AND LEARNING:

**INDIGENIZING SHELL HEAP RESEARCH
AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, MAINE**

ABSTRACT

Acadia National Park (ANP) in Maine is home to at least 24 coastal shell-bearing archaeological sites reflecting the last 3,000 years of Native American life. Most of these sites are threatened by climate change-induced impacts such as sea-level rise and increased storm intensity—the result being an irrecoverable loss of Wabanaki heritage. In a new analysis of legacy collections from previous studies, Wabanaki archaeologists are studying the material heritage of their ancestors to inspire deeper connections between past and present peoples, and to support conversations between ANP staff and Wabanaki communities about Indigenous heritage places in the Park. This, in turn, will encourage culturally informed decisions on coastal site stewardship and management of sites at risk for loss. This effort is an initial step in Indigenizing shell heap research and coastal site management within the context of cultural heritage and climate change loss and damage.

WHEN

Thursday, April 22nd, 2021
7:00-8:00 pm AST /6:00-7:00 PM EST

WHERE

Zoom Meeting – Please pre-register at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocumprT8uG9fNud24jV-R3dro2xF_J6ir

DETAILS

Please join us for the seventh lecture in APANB-AAPNB 2020-2021 Speaker Series with Dr. Bonnie Newsom, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Faculty Associate, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine.



BIO

Dr. Bonnie Newsom is a member of the Penobscot Nation and an archaeologist interested in the pre-contact lifeways of Maine's Native peoples. She is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Associate Faculty in the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. Through her research, Dr. Newsom seeks to humanize past peoples by exploring concepts of identity and human agency. Her current research centers on community-engaged archaeologies, aboriginal ceramic technologies, climate change, and Maine's shell bearing coastal sites. Dr. Newsom's professional history includes serving as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Penobscot Indian Nation and as Assistant Director for UMaine's Wabanaki Center. She has a strong public service record which includes serving as Chair of the Repatriation Review Committee for the National Museum of Natural History, and a member of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission. She and her husband Les are both military veterans and they live in Eddington, Maine. They have four children and two grandsons.

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